made by the committee for preventing the recurrence of similar accidents have been accepted and embodied by the Government in the revised rules issued under the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation.

45. Railway. The field work in connection with the survey of the proposed extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil has been completed by Mr. Marini, who is now engaged in surveying an extension of the line into the town of Trivandrum in advance of its extension to Nagercoil. This immediate extension has been decided upon in the interests of the citizens of Trivandrum. Mr. Marini will next take up the sanctioned survey of the projected railway line from some convenient point between Kottarakara and Quilon to Cochin.

46. It is gratifying to note that the working of the railway from Shencottah to Trivandrum, which involved a loss of Rs. 1,56,720 in 1097 and of Rs. 1,01,095 in 1098, gave a net surplus of Rs. 40,191 in 1099 as the result of the reduction in working expenses and interest charges.

47. Anchal. The number of private covers posted in Anchal Offices has risen from 1,12,77,564 in 1096 to 1,35,05,274 in 1099, the increase during the past triennium being as high as 20 per cent. The receipts of the Anchal Department have risen from Rs. 2,52,778 in 1095 to Rs. 2,99,799 in 1099. The expenditure in the latter year, including the cost of stationery, stamps, and printing, which is being debited to the department since 1097, stood at Rs. 3,26,439, thus resulting in a deficit of Rs. 26,640. A runners' service was opened between Kozhancheri and Tiruvalla in 1099. Sanction has just been accorded to the revival of the motor service between Kottayam and Parur. The village delivery system was introduced in the Anchal Divisions of Padmanabhapuram, Quilon, Mavelikara and Kottayam in 1099.

48. Public Health. The rules for the compulsory registration of vital statistics in rural areas, passed under Regulation VII of 1096, have been brought into force from the beginning of the current year, and it is hoped that a reasonable degree of accuracy in the statistics relating to rural births and deaths will be the result. Basing our comparisons on the compulsory—and hence tolerably reliable—vital statistics for municipal areas, it is seen that, while the birth and death rates have remained stationary at about 31 and 17 per mille respectively, the rate of infantile mortality has come down from 118·7 per mille in 1097, the first year in which the latest census figures of population became available for statistical purposes, to 98·1 per mille in 1099. While vital statistics thus reveal a satisfactory state of public health, it is a matter for regret that there should have been over three hundred deaths from small-pox in 1098 and over four hundred deaths from small-pox and cholera together in 1099. The inference is that the necessary preventive and curative measures are not applied with sufficient rigour and this is a matter which should engage the serious attention of the Sanitary Commissioner.

49. Baby Week. The Baby Week movement, inaugurated by Her Excellency Lady Reading in British India, was adopted in Travancore also in 1099; and with the help of a subsidy from the Government and subscriptions from the public, the Week was celebrated in Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Kottayam and Quilon. These celebrations served to focus attention on the need for health visitors meeting people in their own homes and imparting instruction in the proper care of expectant mothers and of infants. An immediate and gratifying outcome of these celebrations is the entertainment, by the Quilon Municipal Council, of an experienced Sister as a health visitor for the town and the formation of a Health and Child Welfare Association in Alleppey, subsidised by the local Municipal Council. This year's celebrations of the Week were more elaborate and impressive than last year's and were held in two more centres, *viz.*, Tiruvalla and Mavelikara; and it is hoped that they will be instrumental in bringing into existence a variety of activities for the promotion of health and child welfare.

50. Medical Department. On the departure of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan on leave preparatory to retirement in the early part of the current year, Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose, Surgeon of the Women and Children's Hospital, was appointed to be in

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charge of the Medical Department. She was also appointed an official member of the Legislative Council. During the last four years, the total number of in-patients and out-patients treated in the several departmental hospitals and dispensaries together has risen from 8·61 lakhs to 9·91 lakhs, of major and minor operations from 37,456 to 45,554, and of labour cases from 3,967 to 6,666. These are evidences of the growing popularity of the department and of its increasing usefulness to the public at large. The Department of Bacteriology and Pathology, created in 1097, continues to do good work; and during the latter half of 1099, provision for anti-rabic treatment was newly made and the treatment entrusted to the State Bacteriologist. It is proposed shortly to construct a building in the General Hospital premises with eight beds for patients suffering from *rabies*. Mr. J. Alexander, the officer in charge of the investigation of special diseases, whose latest investigation related to yaws in the Mallappalli and Mavelikara areas, has almost completed that work and a detailed report from him on the subject is awaited by the Darbar Physician. A second batch of fifteen nursing pupils are now being trained in the Women and Children's Hospital. A qualified medical graduate has proceeded to England for training in x-ray and electro-therapeutics, and on his return the x-ray department of the General Hospital will be re-organised and placed under his charge. In the Women and Children's Hospital, the number of in-patients has risen from 2,271 to 3,592, and of out-patients from 21,029 to 27,165, during the past four years. The Ophthalmic Hospital has also shown a progressive record of public usefulness during this period, the number of in-patients rising from 606 to 979 and of operations from 452 to 828. In the Hospital for Lepers, the systematic treatment of leprosy by the latest method of injecting preparations of the *chaulmugra* oil has been adopted, and a Sub-Assistant Surgeon, who has had his training under Dr. Muir, Specialist in leprosy and Professor in the School of Tropical Diseases, Calcutta, is applying this method of treatment. Mrs. Lukose reports that the treatment is becoming increasingly popular among the inmates of the hospital. The Government have also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,000 for the dispensary treatment of leprosy which is reported to be widely prevalent in Karungapalli and adjacent areas. The proposal to open a midwifery class in the Women and Children's Hospital for the benefit of women volunteering to undergo a course of training in that institution, referred to in paragraph 46 of my address last year, has been sanctioned, and the class will soon be started. A medical inspection of pupils studying in English schools was carried out for the first time in 1099. The pupils of the Preparatory Class, Form III and Form VI of all departmental English schools for boys, except the Model School attached to the Training College, were examined. Nine private English high schools and two private English middle schools also participated in the scheme. 5,849 pupils were on the whole examined, the cost to the Government on this account amounting to Rs. 2,784. Mrs. Lukose states that, when the reports of the several medical officers engaged in this inspection are received, a study will be made, with the data available, of the causation of the diseases common among school children and the necessary remedial measures suggested.

51. Ayurveda Department. As indicated in paragraph 47 of my address last year, the sale of medicines to the public from the Ayurveda Pharmacy has been discontinued with effect from the beginning of the current year, and that institution is now exclusively treated as an adjunct to the Ayurveda Hospital, the needs of which it subserves. In pursuance of the scheme introduced in 1098 for the gradual increase of grant-in-aid *Vaidyasalas* until their number reaches 120, so that there may be twelve *Vaidyans* for urban areas and one each for every four rural *pakuthies* of the State, ten more *Vaidyasalas* were added in 1099, raising the total number of grant-in-aid *Vaidyans* to 92. The number of patients treated in the grant-in-aid *Vaidyasalas* has risen from 1,60,034 to 2,23,861 or by nearly 40 per cent. within the last four years. The Ayurveda College, organised as such in 1096, has also been gaining in strength, the number of students rising from 105 in 1096 to 142, with 18 girl pupils, in 1099. The work of publishing rare manuscripts on Ayurveda has been transferred to the Director of Ayurveda and his proposals for the staff to be employed in that work are under examination.

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